(a) whether any codification on the objective criteria has been made to decide on the despatch of Central teams of States to study the law and order situation on the basis of invoking of Article 355;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and basis for sending such a team to West Bengal;

(d) whether any meeting of the Inter State Council will be convened to evolve some common approach to codify the specific context of invoking Article 355;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing process in the Central Government. Central officials are deputed to the State in this connection, when considered necessary. As stated earlier, the Central and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

(d) to (f) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has requested that a meeting of the Inter-State Council may be convened to discuss the scope, application and interpretation of article 355 of the Constitution of India. The matter is under consideration.

Measures to Boost Development of North East

4662. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the measures taken to boost development of the North East as decided in the Chief Ministers meeting with the Prime Minister; and

(b) the package sanctioned for North East?

of Armed Forces. The procedures is required to be followed. The Action Taken Memorandum containing Government's responses on the National Human Rights Commission's recommendations in its Annual Report for 1996-97 including inter-alia Para 3.27 of the Annual Reprot have been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10.6.98.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) In pursuance of the discussions in the Prime Minister's meeting with the Chief Ministers of the Eastern States and Sikkim, the Planning Commission has taken necessary action for identifying the projects to be taken up in the North Eastern Region and a budget head has been opened in the Central Government's budget for 1998-99 creating a Central Pool of Resources for funding the specific projects in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. Action has also been initiated for restructuring the North Eastern Council so that it can play more active role in the economic and social transformation of these States.

(b) In October, 1996 the then Prime Minister announced a package of New Initiatives for the development of the North East. The announcement included various schemes in priority sectors such as health, education, transport, flood control etc. There is general progress in almost all the items. of the package programme announced by the former Prime Minister.

Para-Military Forces and Army to Report Directly NHRC

4663. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission recommended that para-military forces and Army report directly